



BLM *News Release*

USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Farmington District, 1235 La Plata Highway, Farmington, NM 87401

For Release: March 3, 1999

Contact: Guadalupe G. Martinez,
(505) 599-8915

BLM / State Issue Draft Environmental Impact Statement For Public Review and Comment

***** Available at: www.nm.blm.gov *****

Public Hearings in Crownpoint, March 8 Farmington, March 9

Public hearings are scheduled March 8, 1999, in Crownpoint, at the Crownpoint Institute of Technology, and at Farmington, Farmington Civic Center, regarding a draft Environmental Impact Statement completed by the Bureau of Land Management and State of New Mexico. The hearing will begin at 2 p.m. and continue until those signed up to speak have done so by 5 p.m. The hearing will reconvene at 7 p.m. and continue until those participants signed up to speak have had the opportunity.

The draft EIS analyzes standards that would apply to about 13.5 million acres of BLM-managed public land in New Mexico, 1.5 million acres of which are administered by BLM's Farmington Field Office. The draft EIS also identifies livestock grazing guidelines that would be used where the grazing practices are currently preventing the standards from being achieved.

"We encourage interested individuals to read the draft report and make comments regarding the various standards and guidelines proposed in the alternatives," BLM Farmington Field Office Manager Lee C. Otteni said. Ultimately, the final decision will amend BLM's Farmington resource management plan and define how BLM's Farmington Field Office will administer the public lands.

Four alternatives were analyzed in detail: the No Action alternative (to serve as a baseline only, because it cannot be continued under current regulations), Resource Advisory Council alternative (developed by New Mexico's statewide Resource Advisory Council), County alternative (developed by the New Mexico members of the Coalition of AZ/NM Counties), and Fallback Alternative (developed as part of the current grazing regulations published in 1995) which is currently in place on an interim basis pending completion of the present analysis and Record of Decision.

The team that developed the draft was composed of members from the BLM, State, and nine cooperating counties. The team assessed the effects of adopting standards for public land health and guidelines for livestock grazing on public lands throughout New Mexico.

The draft document was mailed in late January to counties, organizations, state agencies and interested individuals. The document is also available via the internet at www.nm.blm.gov and there are limited copies of the document available at BLM offices in Albuquerque, Socorro, Farmington, Taos, Roswell, Carlsbad, Las Cruces and Santa Fe. Comments will be accepted until May 17, 1999.

— *BLM* —

Planning Acreage (surface):

Carlsbad	800,000 acres
Farmington	1,508,000 acres
Las Cruces	5,323,000 acres
Rio Puerco	896,000 acres
Roswell	1,367,000 acres
Socorro	1,520,000 acres
Taos	564,000 acres

Hearings Dates and Locations:

3/08/99 - Crownpoint Inst. of Technology, Crownpoint, NM
3/09/99 - Civic Center, 200 W Arrington, Farmington
3/10/99 - Cuba High School, 50 County Road 13, Cuba
3/11/99 - Lucero Center, Española Plaza, Española
3/15/99 - Holiday Inn, 1005 Paseo Del Pueblo Sur, Taos
3/16/99 - BLM Office, 2nd Floor Conf. Room, 1474 Rodeo Rd, Santa Fe
3/17/99 - BLM Office, Conf. Room, 1800 Marquess St, Las Cruces
3/18/99 - 110 South Diamond, Deming
3/22/99 - BLM Office, Conf. Room, 435 Montañño NE, Albuquerque
3/23/99 - Otero County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, Room 253, 1000 New York Ave, Alamogordo
3/24/99 - Carlsbad Public Library Annex, 101 S Halagueno, Carlsbad
3/25/99 - NM Military Institute, Toles Learning Center, Maybee Room, 101 W College, Roswell

From: Rem Hawes
To: PAs New Mexico
Date: Mon, Feb 22, 1999 3:44 pm
Subject: Template News Release for Public Hearings re. Standards & Guidelines Draft EIS

NM Public Affairs Specialists:

Attached is the template news release for your use to announce the public hearing[s] in your area regarding the draft EIS on *standards* and livestock grazing *guidelines*. You will need to insert the dates and locations of your hearings (see page 2 of attached), and Field Office name, acreage (see page 2), manager's name for the quotation, and your name as the contact. (If you get any technical questions, feel free to call or refer them to J.W. Whitney 438-7438.)

Can you please announce your local meetings ...

- Guadalupe - Crownpoint, Farmington
- Charna - Cuba, Española, Taos, Santa Fe, Albuquerque
- Russell - Las Cruces, Deming, Alamogordo
- Angie - Carlsbad
- Howard - Roswell

Thank you. We are asking for a full-press issuance: please issue/deliver your news release about ten days prior and again two days prior to the hearing[s] (or reconfirm the info with your contacts two days prior) to encourage maximum coverage. Thanks! --Rem

P.S. The intent of the language describing the times of the hearings (last two sentences of the first paragraph) is that all hearings will begin at 2:00 p.m. and go (not later than 5:00 p.m.) until all present have spoken. That is, if there isn't anyone left at 3:45, the meeting will be closed until 7:00. At 7:00 p.m., hearings reconvene and will continue until all have spoken, whether that turns out to be 7:45 or midnight.

If you have any questions call me.

CC: jwhitney,ralexand,barmstro,wdalness,ilmnmclld.ilmnm...